

JOYOUS CELEBRATION



On Saturday 18th August, the Rendille New Testament was dedicated, with great joy and praise to God. There were many church leaders and representatives of various organisations. Overseas visitors came from the USA, Canada, South Africa, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. A group of 10 people from Danbury Mission Church accompanied us. These dear friends have prayed and supported the Rendille work for many years. We tried to cope with an overload of emotion. The realisation that God has brought this miracle about filled us with gratitude. It took a very long time due to periodic times of drought and famine with all that this entails. Over the years lives were saved and the love of the Lord Jesus was displayed in acts of care. More importantly, the impact of the gospel going out meant that many people became eager to possess His word..

An estimated 1000 people celebrated this momentous day. Choirs from other language groups added to the colour and joy. The Daassanach people came from both sides of the Ethiopia border, the men clutching their wooden headrests in one hand. Samburu women praised God. Many different groups of Rendille singers danced and sang. The little ones worshipful presentation of "O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder." in Rendille moved the crowd. In our hearts we all responded, "Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee, how great thou art, how great thou art."

I had the opportunity to speak briefly and acknowledged that some of the most important people could not attend this day, those who have over the years stood behind the project in prayer and sacrificial giving. **THANK YOU - IT COULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED WITHOUT YOU!**

Sandy spoke on behalf of The Seed Company, the organisation that helps provide funding for translation projects. She announced that funds were now available for the next phase, to pay three Rendille co-translators in Korr. The Old Testament translation project will start in October and is expected to be completed within seven years. Lynne and I will continue to trust God for our needs, as I work with these translators in the new project. We ask you to continue to pray as we consider re-joining a mission agency.

Finally, the boxes full of New Testaments started their march to the venue on the backs of two camels. The noise was too much for the camels, so the boxes were offloaded and brought in by hand. Women with long staves and warriors carried the boxes. Laban cut open a carton and removed one book, holding it up for the crowd to see. The church leaders prayed over the books, before copies were given to Joshua, Laban and I. Then some of the literacy course graduates read passages, the first ever from this completed book.



On Sunday morning I had the great privilege to preach the first sermon from the new book. Hebrews 1:1 to 4 seemed most appropriate! God has spoken in times past through the prophets, but in the last days he has spoken to us through his Son. After expounding on this text, I then added that he has spoken to us through His Word in Rendille.

Korr hosted a youth conference for the week and I could share again with about 100 young people who love the Lord. I urged the Rendille speakers to purchase a copy of the Scriptures, assuring them that they would understand passages they might not have grasped fully in English. Immediately following this, Pastor David stood up and opened to the text in 2 Timothy 3:10 to 17. He then read it in Rendille and remarked that although he had been to Bible College and has a Masters Degree in Theology, he had not fully understood that passage, but now it was clear and very sweet to him in his mother tongue.



Our friends were astounded at everything they saw. The schools that Lynne started are thriving academically. The Tirrim Primary school has a continued their collection of awards for being the best school in the Marsabit County examinations. One other significant happening was the building of a girl's dormitory, allowing the girls to escape the double curse of early marriage and FGM. The Tirrim Secondary School has welcomed a new headmaster. Zebilon and his wife from November both see the secondary school as a mission call from God. Pray for them as they adjust to the school and the climate - their home is in the cool areas of Mt Kenya! Funds have come to build a new Secondary building at a site that is much more conducive to learning. The current classrooms are very small and were built as staff housing! Our colleagues, Jim and Laura Propst who have served so very faithfully over the years, will be retiring at the end of the year. Jim has worked tirelessly over many years doing outstanding construction and water projects. Laura has taught and guided the secondary school with excellence and great enthusiasm. (Zebilon and Laura are pictured below.)

Would you mind to take a moment to pray right now:-

For God's Word to speed on and change people's lives

For the Rendille Old Testament project starting in October. That I will be able to guide Joshua, Laban and the new translator for the seven year project. (See the photo of Laban and his wife Grace, Joshua and his wife Martha below)

For continued good health

With our love and very deep appreciation to each of you.

Nick and Lynne



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